

FCC establishes display standards for television decoder circuitry act

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) agreed April 12 on final display standards to implement the Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990. The law requires built-in closed caption decoder circuitry in all new television sets with 13-inch screens or larger sold in the United States by July 1, 1993.

According to Sy DuBow, legal director of the National Center for Law and the Deaf and a key architect of the law, the standards adopted by the FCC "ensure that the television viewer can enjoy both the latest technologies and the proven methods to provide quality closed captioning."

Under the FCC's standards, captions can appear anywhere on a television screen. Today's closed captioned decoders can place text only at the top and bottom of the screen; this often covers important parts of the picture.

The FCC has required the continued use of black background to guarantee the legibility of captioned text. It has also allowed for development of alternative backgrounds for the text if manufacturers also offer the black background at the user's option.

Current decoders display italics by slanted letters on the TV screen. The FCC rule gives manufacturers the option of using either true italics or continuing to display italics as slanted letters. Manufacturers interested in using reverse video (black letters on white background) to indicate italics can do so as long as they also provide one of the required italics displays.

Under the new standards, only upper-case letters can be displayed on TV screens, although manufacturers have the option of displaying

both upper and lower case letters. However, by 1996, all new sets will be required to display both lower- and upper-case letters.

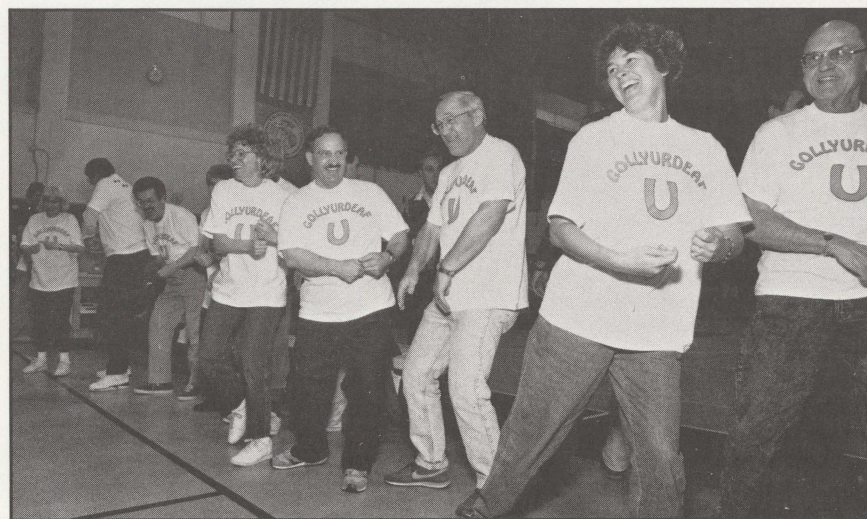
The FCC is requiring that the second data channel (C2) be a required feature on TV sets, although C2 is not available on current consumer decoders because of its severely limited data-carrying capacity. C2 has the potential to provide captioning in different languages or verbatim and edited captions to accommodate reading speed. The FCC declined to rule on a proposed use of "line 21, field 2" for caption data. Field 2 would make it practical to provide viewers with the choice of two complete streams of captioning, which could easily perform features such as different language captions and edited captions.

Two features of current closed caption technology will be optional under the FCC standards—text mode and color captions.

Text mode, which lists information without pictures or other graphics, was not determined by the FCC as essential to the captioning service. But because text mode currently provides information services such as news and program listings that consumers want, many manufacturers may decide to include this feature.

Regarding color captions, the FCC encourages but does not require manufacturers to support this feature.

Manufacturers will be required to label packing boxes and include wording in owner's manuals to indicate if the television sets do not support the options of text mode, color characters, or upper- and lower-case characters.



Some members of the "Gollyurdeaf U" cheering squad do their stuff at the 5th Annual Congressional Charity Basketball Tournament March 16, where the Democrats walked away with a 72-66 victory. From left are Dr. Carol Parr, Dr. Howard Busby, Dr. David Martin, Dr. Bette Martin, Astrid Goodstein, Dr. Harvey Corson, Jack Gannon, Dr. Roslyn Rosen, and Jerald Jordan. More than \$5,000 was raised for the Frederick Schreiber Institute.

Leave related to parenthood studied

The President's Council at Gallaudet is currently reviewing plans to revise Gallaudet's policies regarding employees who take time off from work for maternal, paternal, or adoption leave, to bring the policies in line with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) mandates.

The EEOC recently ruled that disparate treatment by employers across the nation of male and female employees' requests for parental leave is in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1984.

The University Faculty Guidelines do not appear to be in violation of the law. Sick leave is awarded to mothers to recover from the rigors of childbearing. No other formal leave for fathers or adoptive parents is available in the guidelines. It appears that whatever policy the University develops will be an added benefit for University faculty members.

However, the University's current policy in regard to staff is that female employees are eligible for 15 weeks of maternity leave—six weeks with full pay and the remainder to be taken as sick leave or annual leave. Fathers are limited to two weeks with full pay. Adoption leave is two weeks for both males and females.

EEOC guidelines indicate that leave for pregnancy disabilities and leave for child care should be separate. Leave for pregnancy disabilities, according to the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, must be the same as that awarded for any other disability. Currently, all regular and extended temporary faculty and staff have some form of sick leave benefit. Any other time off for child care—whether natural or adoptive, paid or

unpaid—must be the same for men and women.

Pre-College faculty follow a policy somewhat similar to the staff policy: eight weeks of maternity leave and two weeks of paternity leave. Therefore, changes need to be made in that area.

"We have no choice but to comply with the law," said Director of Administrative and Community Services Director LaVarne Hines. "Therefore, the University must take corrective action regarding the existing policies."

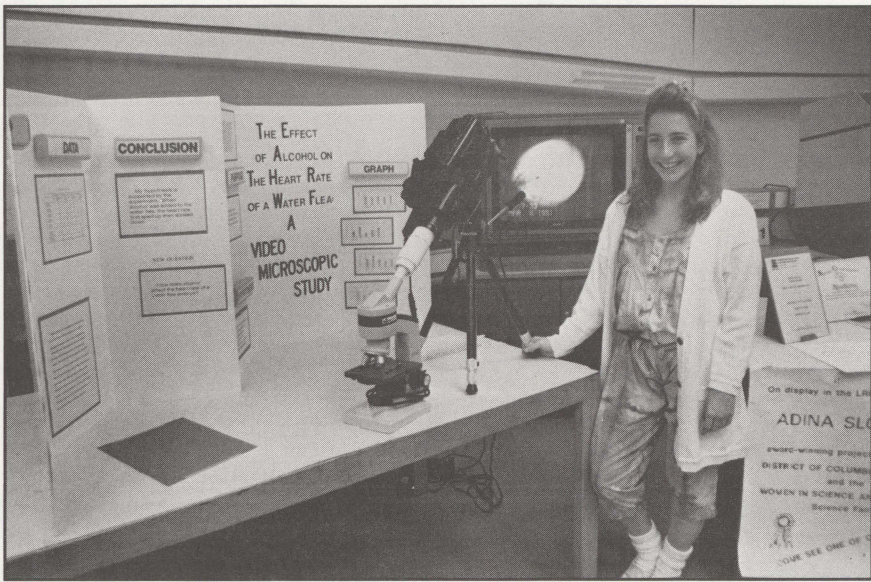
Hines added, "We don't want employees to fear that they will be completely losing a benefit. [President I. King Jordan] has asked that every effort be made to preserve as much of the existing policies as possible. At the same time, we have to propose something to the Board of Trustees that is rational, defensible, and within funding constraints."

According to Director of Human Resources Denise Sullivan, "In developing the policy, the University will have to make sure that the disability leave related to pregnancy and childbearing is separate from child care leave." Sullivan said that the average length of time for a disability related to pregnancy and childbearing is usually about six weeks. Both faculty and staff would be able to use their sick leave during this period, and staff would also have access to the sick leave bank, if needed. Staff members could take additional time as annual leave or leave without pay.

The President's Council plans to present a new policy to the Board of Trustees by the board's May 10 meeting. For a copy of the EEOC guidelines, contact Hines at x5263.



President I. King Jordan congratulates the winners of this year's MacDougall Creative Writing Awards contest April 17 at an awards dinner that included a talk by Pat Orlovsky, education writer for USA Today. The winners (from left) are: Jaye Brown, third place; Christopher Shea, first place; and Dennis Jones, second place.



MSSD 10th-grader Adina Slotsky and her multiple-award-winning science project.

MSSD student's science project awarded by city, organizations

MSSD 10th-grade student Adina Slotsky has been named the first-place winner in the Washington, D.C., Science Fair for her study of how alcohol affects the heart rate of a water flea.

Slotsky's project also won a first-place award from the Chesapeake Society for Electron Microscopy for the "Best Use of Microscopy" and a special commendation from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, at the National Institutes of Health.

Adding to her list of honors, Slotsky was one of only 25 students from the Washington area to be invited to participate in the 1991 Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Conference, held March 25 in Rosslyn, Va. Every year WISE recognizes women from all over the United States who have made outstanding contributions in science and engineering fields.

Later this month, both Slotsky and her science teacher, Rae Ann Wuestman, will be recognized for excellence in learning and teaching by Gallaudet's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education.

What has helped make Adina such an exceptional science student? "She's persistent—like a dog with a bone," said Wuestman. Slotsky agreed: "I

don't like to give up, because then you can't be successful."

Slotsky carried out her project without much help from her teacher, who readily admits she knew little about the project her student had chosen. Slotsky said she ran into a few difficulties while working on her project—notably, not being able to see the heartbeat of a water flea, an insect so small that it is difficult to detect its heartbeat, even through an electron microscope. Her knowledge of photography gave her the idea of attaching an adapter to the television camera she was using, which would magnify the picture thousands of times. When she discovered that she couldn't buy an adapter, she made one herself.

Slotsky said her goals for the future include pursuing college degrees that will allow her to develop her interest and skills in both science and photography so that she can use them together.

Crime Report

The following criminal activities at Gallaudet from March 19 to April 21 were reported by the Department of Safety and Security (DOSS). Crimes such as minor vandalisms, simple assaults, and petty thefts occurring in predominantly student areas have been omitted. No suspects were identified unless otherwise noted.

- March 19—A window fan was stolen from an office window at MSSD; \$130 was stolen from an office at Northwest Campus; \$26 was stolen from an office at Northwest Campus.

- March 28—Newspapers and magazines were stolen from Post Office boxes.

- March 30—A student at the Northwest Campus reported that she had been sexually assaulted by another student. The Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Police Department is investigating the incident.

- April 1—A car battery was stolen from a vehicle parked at the Field House.

- April 13—Various items were stolen from a vehicle parked at Hanson Plaza East.

- April 15—Four hubcaps were stolen from a vehicle at MSSD; radio equipment was stolen from a vehicle parked at the lower parking level of the Field House.

Announcements

The University Library and Merrill Learning Center announce the following summer schedule: May 5-19, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays, closed weekends; May 20-Aug. 2, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sat., 1 p.m.-8 p.m. Sun.; Aug. 3-Sept. 1, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays, closed weekends. Regular fall semester hours begin Sept. 3. In addition, the library will be closed on the following holidays: Mon., May 27, Memorial Day; Thur., July 4, Independence Day; and Mon., Sept. 2, Labor Day.

Dr. Patricia Spencer, a research scientist from the Center for Studies in Education and Human Development, Gallaudet Research Institute, has been elected as the new chairwoman of the Gallaudet Institutional Review Board (IRB). Spencer will serve as IRB chairwoman for a two-year term, beginning May 1991. New members to the IRB, both of whom will serve four-year terms, are Dr. Larry Stewart, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, and Dr. David Martin, dean of the School of Education and Human Services.

A videotape showing examples of the novice level, survival level, intermediate level, and advanced level of the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI) will be broadcast on Gallaudet Cable TV, channel 25, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. daily during the week of April 29-May 3. The video is sponsored by the Staff Advisory Committee.

Three seminars to help people organize their personal and career lives are being offered by Innovative Thinkers, Inc., of Reston, Va.: "Expert Planning" May 9 and 10; "Expert Decision Making" May 13-15; and "Stress Management for Busy Professionals" May 16. Interpreters will be provided free of charge on request. Registration forms and additional information are available from Kayt Lewis, coordinator of employee relations and development, College Hall, Room 4.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has a new TDD phone line for general information. The number, 333-6442, will permit

TDD users to dial a central number at MSDE for information or assistance on education matters. The new number joins four other TDD phone numbers in the department: Special Education, 333-2666; Vocational Rehabilitation, 554-3277; Personnel, 333-3045; and Adult and Community Education, 333-2373.

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED ADS are printed free as a service to Gallaudet faculty and staff. They must be submitted in writing only to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37, or E-mail LMMCCONNELL. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TDD. Ads may be run for a maximum of two weeks, if requested and if space permits. Ads received April 29-May 3 will be published May 13.

NEEDED: House and cat sitter, June 26-Aug. 17, free rent incl. util., Capitol Hill area near bus/Metro, mature, responsible nonsmoker. Call Yerker, x5160, or 547-1972 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Floor lamp, \$35; ladies bicycle, rarely used, \$50; walnut antique barber shop cabinet, \$175; 2 pairs childrens roller skates, \$5/each; 2 bags boys' clothes, size 5-7; antique hoosier, \$875; walnut antique dining room buffet, \$650; several toys and games in exc. cond., neg. Call (301) 604-5846 (TDD), or E-mail CASHEVLIN.

FOR SALE: Amiga 2000 w/80 MB hard drive/2 MB memory, 2 Amiga 3.5 disks, 1 IBM 5 1/4 disk, Amiga and IBM software inc., \$2,500. Call H.L. Buckley, (202) 547-0510 (TDD), or E-mail 11HBUCKLEY.

FOR RENT: Mobile home in Fenwick Island, Del., AC, W/D, DW, 2 baths, sleeps 6, spacious kitchen, \$60/night. Call Beth, (301) 805-1177 (TDD), or E-mail ADBENEDICT.

FOR SALE: 3-BR house, 3 baths, newly finished basement, large deck, fenced yard, off-street parking, CAC and more, Beltsville, Md., w/easy access to I-95, I-495, shopping, schools, Gallaudet, \$162,900. Call Debbie, x5014, M-W 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., or (301) 937-6680 (V) after 6 p.m.

FOR RENT: Large BR, \$350/mo., small BR \$300/mo., both inc. util., Hyattsville, Md., 10 min. to Gallaudet, nonsmoker, professional or graduate student, must love dogs, avail. immed. Call (301) 277-6165 (V/TDD) eves., or E-mail RLPELLETIER.

FOR RENT: Beach condo between 2 major shopping centers at bay side across from Ocean City Sheraton Hotel, 500 steps from beach, sleeps 6, inc. TV/decoder, VCR, TDD, microwave, swimming pool. Call Ron, x5680 (TDD), or (301) 434-0409 (V/TDD) eves., or E-mail RESUTCLIFFE.

FOR RENT: Mature person wanted to share 4-BR, 3 1/2-bath townhouse in Wheaton, Md., large kitchen, deck, convenient, \$350/mo. plus 1/2 util. Call Sally, (301) 496-5638 (V/TDD) days.

FOR SALE: Round dining room table w/4 chairs, \$250. Call Susan (301) 839-3577.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR: Television, Film, and Photography
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SPANISH: Foreign Languages

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On the Green

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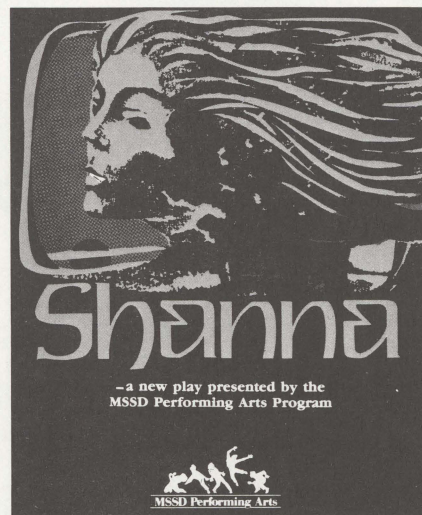
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MSSD's spring play, "Shanna," written by Gallaudet student Cheri Lundquist about a girl's experiences when she is banished from her village after becoming deaf, can be seen on the MSSD stage May 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, and 10. For tickets, call x5466 (V/TDD).